THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per the Manual on Solid Waste Management brought out by the Ministry of Urban Development in the year 2000, plastic waste generated in the country is around 5000 tonnes per day.

(b) As per the information provided by the Indian Centre for Plastics in the Environment, about 60% of the India's plastic production is recycled annually. Standards have been laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standards for recycled plastic products.

(c) Plastics in general are chemically inert substances. They are '*per se*' not harmful to the environment, except the indiscriminate littering of the plastic material alongwith other garbage and the absence of its organized segregation.

(d) Bio-degradable plastics is still in its nascent state. Its development and usage in the developed countries also is limited. A uniform law for the use of bio-degradable plastics is not under consideration of the Government at present.

Water treatment plants for lakes and ponds of Rajasthan

†1878. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to install water treatment plants for making some lakes and ponds of Rajasthan pollution free and also for the conservation of pure water;

(b) if so, the names of the lakes and ponds selected for installing water treatment plants; and

(c) by when the work of installing water treatment plants would be completed alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Ecological restoration of Mansagar Lake of Jaipur, Rajasthan is under way since December, 2002, which includes setting up of a sewage treatment plant for the treatment of sewage. The project has been approved at a cost of Rs.24.72 crore

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

based on 70:30 funding pattern between the Central and the State Government.

No further concrete proposal for pollution abatement in lakes under the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) has been received from the Government of Rajasthan. In response to this Ministry's letter to all the State Governments to prioritise lakes of their State, some basic information regarding eight lakes of Rajasthan *viz.* Anna Sagar and Pushkar (Ajmer), Fateh Sagar, Pichola, Swaroop Sagar and Jaisamand (Udaipur), Jai Sagar (Kota) and Nakki Lake (Mount Abu) had been received earlier from the State Government. Later, the State Government had requested for placement of funds for preparation of the detailed project reports only for three lakes of Rajasthan *viz.* Pichola, Swaroop Sagar and Fateh Sagar of Udaipur. As per the guidelines of the NLCP, the types of works/activities that can be taken up under this Plan include prevention of pollution from point sources by intercepting, diverting the pollution, *insitu* measures of lake cleaning such as desilting, deweeding, bioremediation etc. The State Government in response to the above proposal was, therefore, requested to clarify the position regarding the activities proposed to be covered under the NLCP. 30% cost of the project as State share and full operation and maintenance cost are some of the others commitments which were also required to be given by the State Government. The above clarifications from the State Government are awaited as yet.

Smuggling of natural herb 'The Fungus'

1879. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a natural herb 'The Fungus' smuggled by organized network from Uttaranchal forests to neighbouring countries like China and Nepal;

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any preventive measures around Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve near Pindari Glacier in Uttaranchal; and

(c) whether Government are also thinking to utilize the potential of these natural herbs as a medicine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Government are not aware of any organized network involved in smuggling of the natural herb